

34 Heritage Court
Randolph, NJ 07869

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support of Microsoft and by extension, the settlement recently proposed by the DOJ. I support this settlement because Microsoft deems the terms fair and will comply in the hope of regaining a measure of normalcy in the IT industry as soon as possible. I am sure that this has been public's desire from the very beginning.

However, I don't believe in the prosecution of Microsoft, in the first place. In my mind, this all started due to an overzealous prosecutor and competitor's which used the available court system as a venue to retain competitive advantage, damn fairness and free trade. Microsoft has brought new innovative products to market and because they were superior, they've become widespread. Why on earth should they be prosecuted for being successful?

To me the only good thing that has come out of this lawsuit is that the public has been able to see the kind of company that Microsoft is, one that provides products that the market wants, low cost and effective computing solutions. That they bundled their software, made it easier for me and I support them for it. It didn't kill Netscape (I still use it) or any other competitor. They just failed to be as successful as Microsoft, and now they're complaining.

Microsoft's willingness to comply with the terms of this agreement and those not even at issue in the lawsuit is a classic example of their high caliber. Microsoft has agreed to allow their competitors aspects of Windows that will facilitate competitiveness such as Microsoft's internal interfaces, protocols and intellectual property. To ensure their compliance, Microsoft has agreed to be monitored by a Technical Committee.

In the interest of seeing a restored IT industry and a more stabilized economy, please make the necessary decision to formalize the proposed settlement, though I personally think it goes to far.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard T. Paeschke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard Paeschke